

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 NIC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /125 W

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P R 161545Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3256

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU, CS

SUBJECT: STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN WINS RELEASE OF TWO PRISONERS

REF: MANAGUA'S A-02 OF JANUARY 4, 1974

1. THE CAMPAIGN MANNED LARGELY BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO FORCE THE GON TO RELEASE "POLITICAL PRISONERS", FRANCISCO RAMIREZ URBINA AND EFRAIN NORTHWALTON, (A-02) CONTINUED THROUGH JANUARY 14. THE TWO MAIN POINTS OF ACTIVITY WERE LEON WHERE STUDENTS OCCUPIED THREE CHURCHES AND MANAGUA'S SANTA FAZ PARISH WHERE STUDENTS AND THE MOTHERS OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" STAGED HUNGER STRIKES. THE CHURCH CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO REQUEST THAT AUTHORITIES OUST THE STUDENTS FROM CHURCH PROPERTY. INDEED THE BISHOP OF ELON JOINED WITH UNIVERSITY RECTOR TUNNERMANN AND RECTOR-ELECT FIALLOS IN REQUESTING GENERAL SOMOZA TO RELEASE NORTHWALTON.

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2. RAMIREZ URBINA WAS SET FREE ON JANUARY 11 AFTER HIS LAWYER PAID 2,000 CORDOBAS TO THE GN FOR THE RIFLE HE WAS CONVICTED OF

SELLING TO A MEMBER OF THE FSLN. THIS WAS THE CONDITION THE GON FINALLY POSED FOR HIS RELEASE AFTER HOLDING HIM ALMOST TWO YEARS BEYOND HIS ORIGINAL FIVE YEAR SENTENCE.

3. A DEMONSTRATION OF A REPORTED 300 PERSONS WAS BROKEN UP BY THE NATIONAL GUARD AT SANTA FAZ THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 6. THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 11 ARCHBISHOP MIGUEL OBANDO Y BRAVO DIRECTLY INTERVENED AT SANTA FAZ TO PERSUADE THE STUDENTS AND MOTHERS TO ABANDON THE CHURCH AFTER THE GN REPORTEDLY THREATENED TO REMOVE THEM BY FORCE.

4. THAT SAME NIGHT IN LEON THE NATIONAL GUARD USED TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE A GROUP OF STUDENTS IN THE CENTRAL PLAZA. MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS AND A SUPPLEMENTARY COMPANY OF SOME 150 NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS HAD BEEN SENT TO LEON TO BEEF UP THE DEPARTMENTAL GARRISON. AFTER FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, TEAR GAS WAS REPEATEDLY USED IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF LEON TO DISPERSE STUDENTS WHO PERSISTED IN STAGING DEMONSTRATIONS IN FAVOR OF THE "POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND IN SUPPORT OF STUDENTS OCCUPYING THE CHURCHES.

5. EFRAIM NORTHWALTON (AKA NORTALWALTON) WAS REPORTEDLY SUMMARILY EXPELLED FROM EL SALVADOR BY THE GOES IN SEPTEMBER 1972 AND SENT TO NICARAGUA. ACCORDING TO HIS ATTORNEY, THE NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES HAVE IMPRISONED HIM SINCE MARCH 1973 ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE HAD NO DOCUMENTATION. ON JANUARY 15 THE SALVADORAN EMBASSY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD GIVE NORTHWALTON A PASSPORT SO HE COULD LEGITIMIZE HIS IMMIGRATION STATUS IN NICARAGUA. SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE WAS RELEASED, AND PROCEEDED TO COSTA RICA ENROUTE TO PANAMA.

6. FOR EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE ON NORTHWALTON.

7. COMMENT: WITH NORTHWALTON'S RELEASE, PARTICIPANTS IN THE "POLITICAL PRISONERS" CAMPAIGN HAVE ATTAINED THEIR TWO ANNOUNCED OBJECTIVES. THE STUDENTS HAVE PROCLAIMED THAT THEY WILL ABANDON THE SEIZED LEON CHURCHES AND RETURN TO THEIR CLASSES WHEN THEY RECEIVE CONFIRMATION THAT NORTHWALTON HAS ARRIVED SAFELY IN
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PANAMA. NO FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS WERE REPORTED IN LEON THE 15TH. NICARAGUA, HOWEVER, MAY AS A BY-PRODUCT OF THE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN FIND ITSELF WITH A POLITICALLY REACTIVATED STUDENT POPULATION AFTER MANY MONTHS OF RELATIVE STUDENT APATHY.
SHELTON

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